Recommendation of National Commission on Farmers

3044. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the National Commission on Farmers in its report has suggested comprehensive strategy for food and nutrition security in the country;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations and action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government has since examined those recommendations; and

(d) if so, the time by when those recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The National Commission on Farmers (NCF), set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, in its Second Report submitted in August, 2005 has suggested a medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country. The NCF submitted its Final Report along with a draft National Policy for Farmers in October, 2006. This Draft National Policy for Farmers proposes formulation and enactment of a Food Guarantee Act; the necessity of a well defined Food Security Policy; and setting up a National Food Security and Sovereignty Board. Based on this Draft and consultations with the State Governments, the Government of India approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007 which *inter-alia* provides for a well defined Food Security Policy and constitution of a Cabinet Committee on Food Security. As per the Union Budget (2009-10), work on National Food Security Act has begun in right earnest.

The NPF document was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament in November, 2007. Subsequently, an Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation finalized a Plan of Action for Operationalisation of the NPF, 2007 and the same was circulated in October, 2008 to all the State Governments and the central Ministries/Departments concerned for necessary action.

Strategies for Agricultural Mechanisation and Technology

3045. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the strategies and programmes for the Agricultural Mechanization and Technology;

(b) whether it is a fact that training and testing facilities are highly uneven in different parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The strategy and therefore the programmes for agricultural mechanization has been towards promotion of eco-friendly agricultural equipment, which can be optimally and efficiently utilized by the human beings, animals and can be operated by mechanical and electrical power to increase productivity of land and labour, improve utilization and efficiency of various agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation water and improve quality of farm operations. Such equipments should reduce the cost of production and drudgery associated with the various agricultural operations. The schemes for the promotion of agricultural mechanization in the country are as under:—

(i) Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration.

(ii) Post Harvest Technology and Management.

(iii) Revised Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme-Farm Mechanization.

(b) and (c) The requirements of training and testing of agricultural equipment are met through four Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes established at Budni (Madhya Pradesh), Hissar (Haryana), Garladinne (Andhra Pradesh) and Biswanath Chariali (Assam). To train large number of farmers at nearby places, outsourcing of training through State Agricultural Universities, Agricultural Engineering colleges, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, polytechnics, etc. is being implemented from the year 2004-05. Demonstration of Equipment at farmers' field is being undertaken from the year 1999-2000. The testing of agricultural equipments has also been decentralized and the State Governments may test the equipment if considered necessary through institutions such as the State Agriculture University, any Engineering College, Indian Council of Agricultural Research institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendra or any other research institute designated by the State Governments to undertake such activity.

Development of horticulture

3046. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge potential for the development of horticulture in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken and programmes initiated for tapping its full potential;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the facilities for horticultural crops and export of horticultural produce are not adequate as a result of which huge volume of horticulture produce perishes every year; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has been implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz*., Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh (**TMNE**) and